

3. Principles of Prosperity

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Sub-title: Three qualities that will lift you into prosperity

Late last year we had some outstanding teaching about God's prosperity for us & the transfer of wealth that is prophesied to happen in the last days. Today we will continue exploring more "principles of prosperity".

Last week's main points:

1. **God wants to bless the work of our hands**
2. **God commands us to work and to be productive**
3. **Not all types of work & goods produced pays an equal income**
4. **You need a storehouse**

Today we will discuss three qualities that are necessary for people to advance in life, and also to advance economically.

Today's message is not sensational, nor is it inherently exciting. Yet it communicates valid truth to those who truly wish to advance in life.

1. **Diligence, Stepping Stone to Leadership**

The book of Proverbs speaks extensively about the quality of diligence. It links the quality of diligence with the outcome of leadership & prosperity.

Proverbs 12:24 (NKJV) *The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor.*

- Notice: The hand of the diligent will rule ...
- This means that a diligent person will rise in rank in their place of employment, and occupy leading positions (supervisor, manager, etc.)
- Diligence is the opposite of slackness or laziness
- Diligent –sharp, (determined)
- Reliable, consistent, timely

Proverbs 10:4 (NKJV) *He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but **the hand of the diligent makes rich.***

- Slack hands lead to poverty, but diligent hands lead to prosperity
- These Scripture passages contrast between “diligence” and “slackness” (laziness), and tell us the inevitable outcome of each
- Prosperity or poverty are not random results in life – they are prophesied and predicted results of certain lifestyles & character traits

Proverbs 12:27 (NKJV) *The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but **diligence is man’s precious possession.***

- Evidently, “diligence” is (one of) man’s “precious possessions”
- One of the base meanings of the word “diligence” is “gold” (poetical)
- A lazy man does not follow through with what he started, but diligent people bring their projects to completion

NLT: ... *the diligent make use of everything they find.*

2. Courage, the Quality required of Leaders

Joshua 1:5–7 (NKJV) *No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. **6 Be strong and of good courage,** for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. **7 Only be strong and very courageous,** that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.*

- Joshua had just been appointed the new leaders of Israel
- In His first words to the new leader, God began to speak to Joshua about courage
- Vs. 6: Be strong and of good courage ...
- Vs. 7: Only be strong and very courageous ...
- It takes the character strength of courage to embark on a career path or to accept a promotion at one’s place of employment
- Promotions always includes increased responsibilities & increased challenges

Joshua 1:9 (NKJV) *Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and of good courage;** do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, **for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.***”

- God commands Joshua three times to be strong and of good courage
- God-appointed leaders are commanded to be courageous
- For us as believers, courage is the result of God's presence in our lives
- Every believer in Christ should develop a deep & quiet courage as a result of God's presence in their lives

3. An Industrious Person will excel in Life

“All of industry is driven by industrious people”.

1 Kings 11:28 (NLT) *Jeroboam was a very capable young man, and when Solomon saw how industrious he was, he put him in charge of the labor force from the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, the descendants of Joseph.*

- Jeroboam was a very capable young man (Man of valour)
- Solomon saw that he was industrious, and made him the leader over all the labour force of the house of Joseph
- In Scripture, the meaning of diligence and industriousness is linked
- Industry – from Latin “industria” meaning “diligence or hard work”
- To be industrious:
 - hardworking
 - persistently active
 - constantly, regularly, or habitually occupied
- Merriam-Websters Dictionary: Industry is “systematic labor especially for some useful purpose or the creation of something of value”

Ephesians 4:28 (AMP) *Let the thief steal no more, but rather **let him be industrious**, making an honest living with his own hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need.*

- A lazy person waits until someone gives them something of value
- A thief takes items of value that someone else has earned or produced
- But an industrious person works with their own hands and earns or produces valuable things

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*